つぼめ 陽だまり少女紀行

松本規之

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TL NOTE: RYUUGUU-JOU = THE UNDERSEA PALACE OF THE DRAGON GOD OF THE SEA IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY

TL NOTE: TAKETOMI ISLAND = A TINY ISLAND IN THE OKINAWA PREFECTURE

CH.1

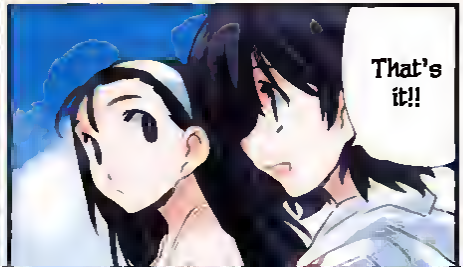
Hibiscus and Ryuuguu-jou
Taketomi Island

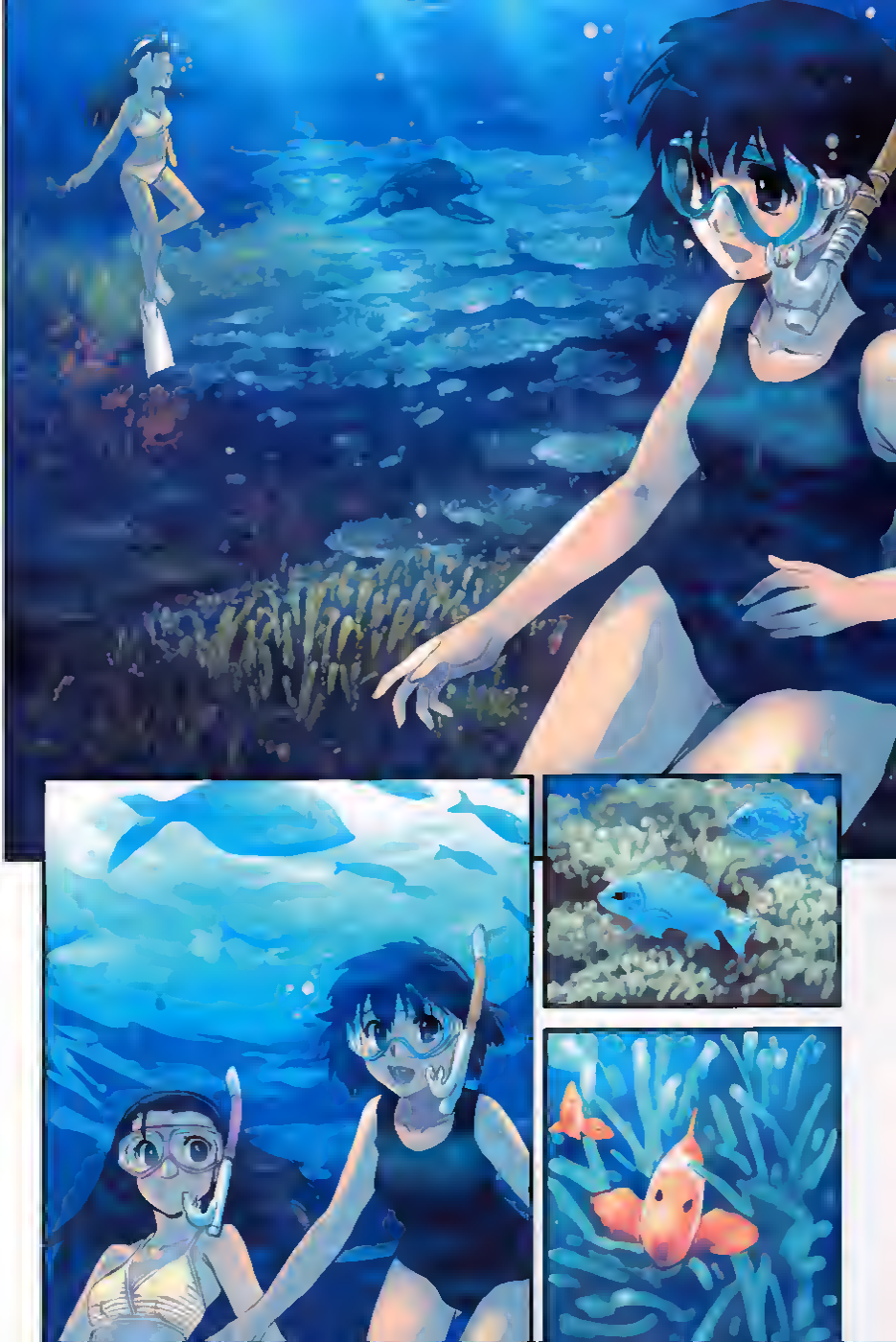
Ga...

TL NOTE: GAMERA = A GIANT FLYING TURTLE MONSTER FROM 1960S JAPANESE MOVIES.

Yuika-chan, take that side.
Alright, then we'll return it to the sea♡
JUMP
Ugeh!? It's kinda scary...
Ugh, it's heavy!?
UNGGH
UNGGH

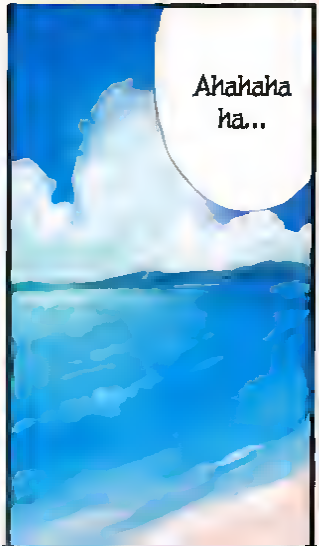
TL NOTE: ISHIGAKI IS THE SECOND LARGEST ISLAND IN OKINAWA, CLOSE TO TAKETOMI.





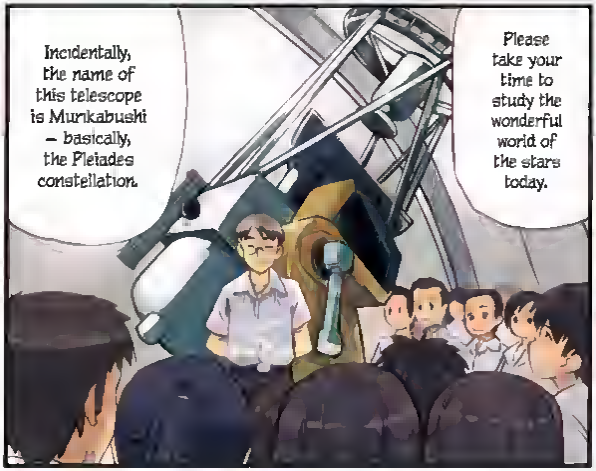
It should be alright now... Bye-bye Turtle-san.
Glance

TL NOTE: TAMATEBAKO = IN A JAPANESE FOLK TALE, A BOX RECEIVED BY URASHIMA TAROU AFTER HIS VISIT TO RYUUGUU-JOU AS A REWARD FOR SAVING A SEA TURTLE.

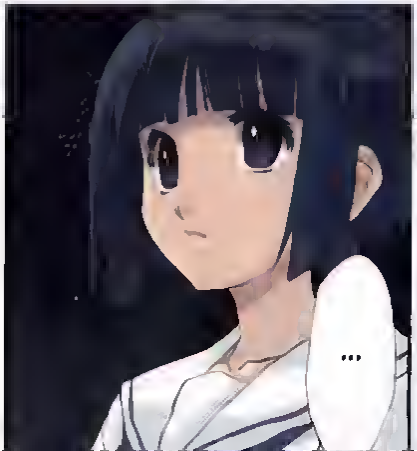


When I think of that, I wonder where my light is flying to right now
Even if a star out there in the distance disappears, it will still be alive to me
It takes tens of thousands of years for starlight to reach me
CH.2
Time Capsule of the Stars
Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Island
Observatory


Incidentally, the name of this telescope is Munkabushi – basically, the Pleiades constellation.
Please take your time to study the wonderful world of the stars today.

Welcome, everyone from the Churaboshi Laboratory Explorer Club


...

Grandma, what's that round hole~?
Grand-ma...
TL NOTE: HOSHIMI = STAR GAZING
Hmm
This is called a hoshimi stone. In the past, people looked at the stars through that hole, to tell the seasons and the time for rice planting~
TL NOTE: UTAKI = OKINAWAN SACRED PLACE
NNI = MURUBUSHI/MURIKABUSHI/PLEIADES IN THE YAEYAMA DIALECT SPOKEN ON ISHIGAKI
This is the Murubushi Utaki. The place where a pure-hearted maiden of this village went to the Nni star and came back.

Ah... Tsubame-chan...?
Hoshimi-chaaaan.
Ah, there you are
The observation is starting already, but you disappeared, so I was wondering where you went.
Are you alright, Hoshimi-chan...?
Yes—

Yes ...
Hoshimi-chan, your grandma... It was around this time last year...
I see ...
I remembered grandma as I was looking at the stars ...
Grandma told me a lot about the stars related to Yaeyama.

Say, Hoshimi-chan
...
So, if a person a hundred light years away looks this way, they'll see the me of a hundred years ago, alive and well.
Isn't it mysterious how light from these stars started hundreds, thousands of years ago ...?

Right, become starlight and keep living forever. So Ittoshimi-chan's grandma is now also somewhere. I'm sure.
From that distant person's point of view, doesn't it mean that I'll always be alive?

Tsubame-chan, unexpectedly, you're quite a romantic.
Tsu-bame-chan
!
Ehhh!? This is the first time someone told me that~~
Hey, Tsubame!! What's the point of you going to look for someone if you disappear yourself!?
You too, Hoshimi-chan, hurry back!!
S-Sorry, Yuika-chan~
Yu-Yuika-senpai, I'm sorry~~

CH.3
Hill and Cat and Sea Breeze and
Nagasaki

I'll be late, late, late~~~
Hurry, hurry, Mom.
Is it ready?
Is it ready?
Here, Nana-chan. Your bento.

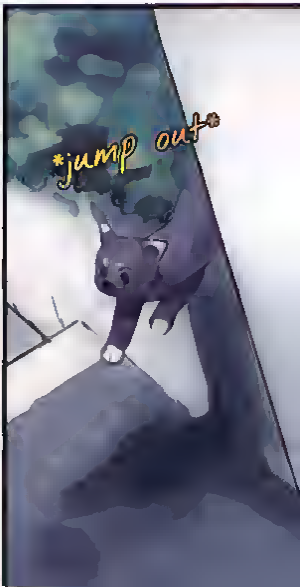
TL NOTE: ITTEKIMASU = LIT, "I'M LEAVING AND COMING BACK", STANDARD PHRASE USED WHEN GOING OUT BY ALL POLITE JAPANESE

Ugh, this pace just isn't good enough.
But still, going full speed down this hill might cost you your life...

STEP
STEP

slip

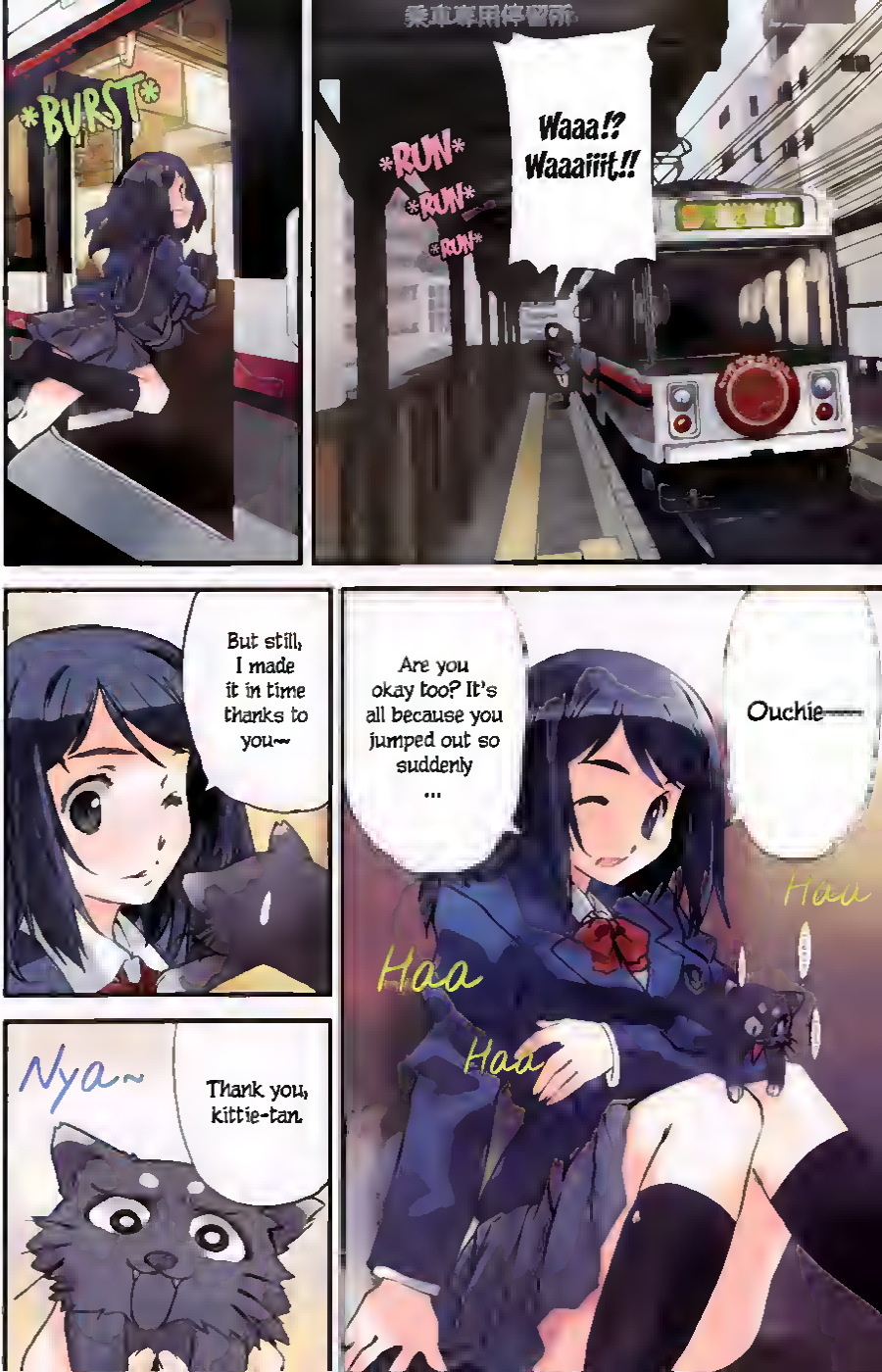
Kya!?


jump out

Waaaa!?
Uwa-
aaa

STRETCH OUT
!
SLIDE

I mean ...
I can't stop ~~!?
RUN
RUN
RUN
Got you!!
SURPRISE
Kyaaaaaa ~~~!!
CRASH!
SMACK!
THUD!


BURST
美車専用停留所
RUN
RUN
RUN
Waaa!?
Waaaiiit!!
But still, I made it in time thanks to you~
Are you okay too? It's all because you jumped out so suddenly ...
Ouchie——
Haa
Haa
Haa
Nya~
Thank you, kittie-tan.

TL NOTE: HAKODATE IS A PORT CITY ON HOKKAIDO, THE NORTHERNMOST JAPANESE ISLAND

CH.4

Northern Illumination

Hakodate 1

PULL
...
...
Ah!?
How mean, Yuu-chan, I was just getting to the good part now~!?
STARTLED
Megumi~ Don't you think it's dangerous to be walking on this snow covered road while reading a book?

NO LONGER HUMAN
DAZAI OSAMU
What are you reading anyway...?
Yuu-chan, give it back already~~
I'll give it back after we watch the Christmas illumination at the warehouse district down below.
Both of us will be taking entrance exams next year, so if you read something, shouldn't it be a reference book?
Actually ...
Wha-Wha-?
Gloomy!

So today, our whole class decided to go out and make some memories together before graduation.
But still, next year, everyone in our class will go their separate ways to various schools and such...
GRIND
GRIND
That's why, at least for today, no books...
...
...
Ugh! I don't care anymore!!
Are you even listening!?
AND WHEN DID YOU MANAGE TO GET THE BOOK!?

Huh?
...
...
Yuuko-chan?
Ayu-kawa-saaan, over here.
...
...

Every-one's here already~
Turn
!
Hello, Megumi-san.
I'm hungry ~~~
Oh, there she is.
Where do you think you're going, Megumi?
Yeah.
C'mon, hurry up. The lighting ceremony starts at 18:00.
Jeez, Yuu-chan, I thought you went ahead with-out me~~
Well, I thought you knew that our meeting place was only 50 meters ahead from there...

And now, the lighting up of the illumination!
3!
2!
1!
LIGHT!
SHINE

CH.5
The Tower of Yearning
(Beginning)
Hakodate 2

I love the scene with the military council and the exchange between Toshi-sama and Enomoto-san, so I've re-watched it many times.

Yes, it's the setting for the Shinsengumi Hakodate chapter they had on TV last year. It's a very beautifully shaped castle-

Megumi-oneechan, is it Goryoukaku up ahead?

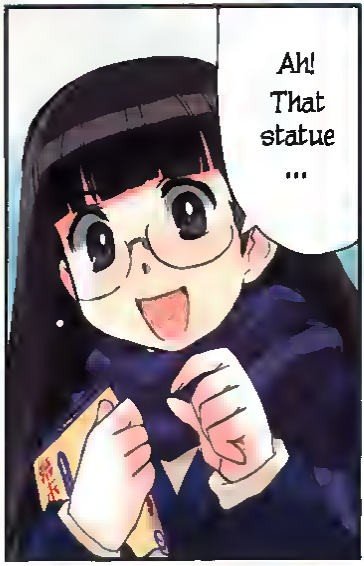
TL NOTE: SHINSENGUMI IS A PERIOD DR. M... TOUT SHINSEGUMI, THE SPECIAL POLICE FORCE OF THE LATE SHOGUNATE PERIOD.

TL NOTE: GORYOUKAKU IS THE FIRST WESTERN STYLE (STAR-SHAPED) FORTRESS IN JAPAN, BUILT IN HAKODATE IN 1857-1866.

KYA
KYA
If you think about why Miharu suddenly came from Sapporo to hang out, could it be TV's influence?
Can't you be quiet already ...?
Hmmm ...
So it's the highest place in Hakodate?
Megumi-oneechan, what's that thing on top of the mountain?
Yes, but the second highest is the New Goryoukaku Tower they finished last year.
That's an observation platform. The scenery is beautiful at night, but it's cold this time of year~

Uwaaa— It's so pretty.

NEW GORYOUKAKU TOWER—


Ah! That statue ...

Even though we're from the area, there was really no reason for us to visit anything except the famous landmark.
Actually, this is the first time here for us as well.

Sheesh, grade schooler Miharu looks more like an adult.
I- Is this the one of Toshi-sama that had been installed on the old observation platform~? Hawawa, I knew it, he's so cool.
Wait, where's Miharu ...?

Mmm...
locked...
...
...
What's wrong, Miharu? Is there some place you want to look at...?
Sigh
...

PURURU
PURURURU
Ah!?
PURURU
PURURU
...I thought that if I looked from a high place, I'd be able to find my father who's in Hakodate ...
Eh!?
Ah, it's you, Auntie? Eh!? Yes, she's here right now...
Eh!? Ran away!? Y-Yes
...
...
AH!?
RUN

Yuu-ch...
LAUGH~
Ehehe~ Look, look, it's a figurine of Toshi-sama. Isn't it well made~~?
MIHARU, WAIT!!
MIHA-RU!?
WAA~!?
CRASH!!
GYA!!
Haa
Haa
Haa

CH.6
The Tower of Yearning
(Conclusion)
Hakodate 3

Ha
Haa

Speaking of that, didn't she say something about a high place?
It's gotten dark already. We can't keep looking for her blindly...
It's no use, we can't find her ...
Right, right, the observation platform!!
Hey, Megumi, Miharu did say something about a high place, didn't she!?
Now that you mention it, on the train she asked where the highest place in Hakodate is...

HAKODATE

So uncle is now in Hakodate working for some company, and so Miharu...
I found out on the phone that aunt and uncle have divorced recently ...

I've informed Auntie about the current situation... in case we don't find her here

If you don't go inside quickly, you'll catch a cold Miharu.
!
PAPA!?

Your mother told me that you disappeared this morning
So I thought if I come to a high place, I'd find you quickly...
!
Papa, what are you doing here?

Uncle got here before us.
Oh, looks like the snow stopped ...
Yeah ...

CH.7
From the Flower of the Wind
to the Flower of Sakura
Toono

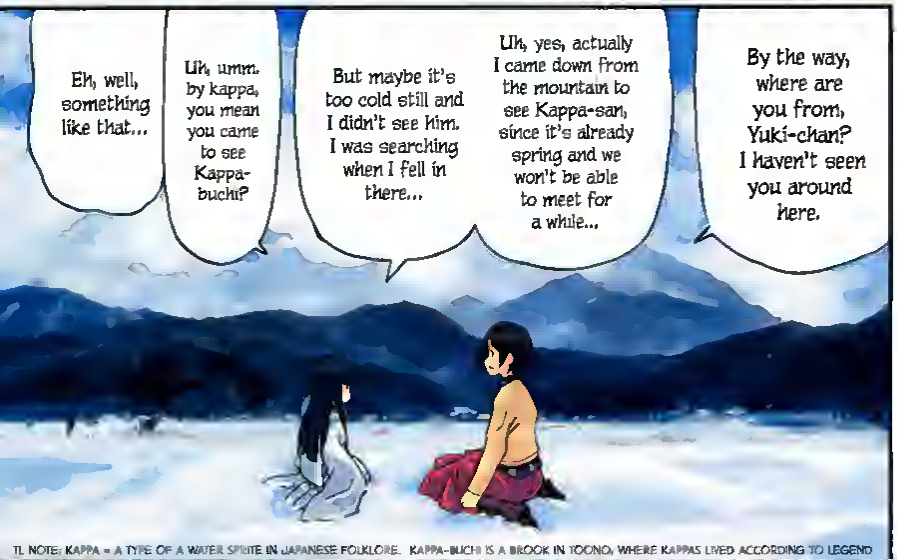
There... This should be enough.
Clack
E- Excuse meee
U- U- Umm--- Could you help me please?
Hmm?

Here~
Over
here~
...
...
fwosh
fwosh
Th-This
isn't
good!!
Whoa!!
...
...
Wa-Wait
just a
minute.
Err—
I need a
stick.
Ah,
perfect.
the fire-
wood is
right
here.
I-I'm
sorry~~

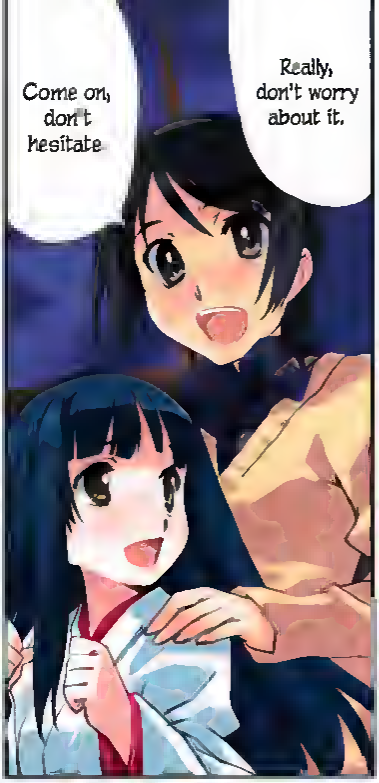
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
Th- Thank you very much. How should I express my gratitude...?
Sheesh. You have to make sure to follow the roads around here. There's still snow piling up on top of water, so it's dangerous—
Err... What's your name?

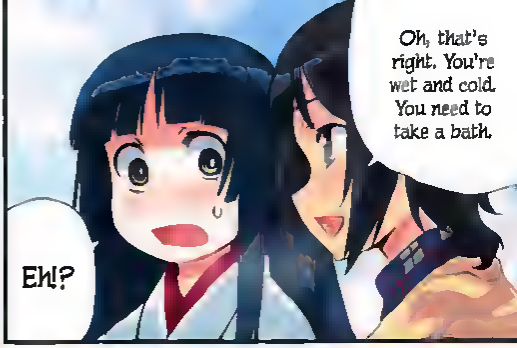
TL NOTE: YUKI SPELLED PHONETICALLY.

TL NOTE: YUKI SPELLED USING A CHARACTER FOR "SNOW"


Eh, well, something like that...
Uh, umm. by kappa, you mean you came to see Kappa-buchi?
But maybe it's too cold still and I didn't see him. I was searching when I fell in there...
Uh, yes, actually I came down from the mountain to see Kappa-san, since it's already spring and we won't be able to meet for a while...
By the way, where are you from, Yuki-chan? I haven't seen you around here.

TL NOTE: KAPPA = A TYPE OF A WATER SPRITE IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE. KAPPA-BUCHI IS A BROOK IN TOONO, WHERE KAPPAS LIVED ACCORDING TO LEGEND


Really, don't worry about it.
Come on, don't hesitate


Oh, that's right. You're wet and cold. You need to take a bath.
Eh!?

Uh, but!!
Don't worry, just go!
RATTLE

Come on, take off your clothes.
Eeek!!

I was actually heating up the bath right before
RATTLE
RATTLE

[1] NOTE: IT'S IMPLIED HERE THAT THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL IS YUKI ONNA (SNOW WOMAN) ANOTHER CREATURE OF FOLKLORE

CLACK
Wah!?
I thought she fell in again so I went looking but she wasn't anywhere...
I wonder where Yuki-chan ran off to...
SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLASH
Wh- Who's there!?
Yes. let's meet again, Yuki-chan ...
Thank you for saving me today. I would like to meet you again, Yuki.
Ah.

CH.8
The Wind and Sound from Shimanami (Beginning)
Onomichi 1

MUSIC ROOM
Mina, you only started after graduating from middle school, so you're rushing too much.
That's right, the scales are basic, so make sure you take the time to practice them.
Mio-chan, you've been doing this ever since you were a grade schooler, so you can take it easy.
Ahhh, I really want to play as well as the senpais already.

Huhu, lend me that sax for a minute?
Ah, Shizue-senpai, h-hello.
Aren't you working hard new members?
Listen, even if you're not that good, you should first try to play your favorite tune.
Somewhere over the rainbow,
Way up high,
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby.
Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue.
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

You're amazing, Senpai. I thought your specialty was piano, but you could join the POPS with your sax playing.
It was the theme song from "The Wizard of Oz", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".
In the past, my father often let me listen to this melody, so I naturally memorized it.

EHHH~~!?
I would really love to do that, but...
The thing is...
Shizue-senpai! Can you please teach me that melody!?
...
...
I have to get ready for our move, so I can't come to the club anymore. It's unfortunate, but the two of you should do your best

That's it!!
The 2nd and 3rd years probably knew about it already, but we find out so suddenly, and with only two weeks remaining besides ...
So Shizue-senpai's father is a famous conductor... That's why the two of them are going to London now.
Eek!
But before that, you need to clear those scales first!!
Let's play this tune on the last day to send senpai off.
Ohh, nice idea! Let's do it!!

Oh!?
Shizue, is your farewell party over?
Yes, everything is done, Papa.
There's a melody coming from the mountain... It's not very skilled, but a good performance nonetheless. "Over the Rainbow" from "The Wizard of Oz"...
Thank you both. Ittek-masu.

CH.9

The Wind and Sound from Shimanami (Conclusion)

Onomichi 2

島行きのり

E-
Excuse me, but those uniforms— you're from Onomichi North High, right?
Umm~~
Yes?

I need a favor! Please help me search for a cat!!
Are you from the brass band club by any chance ...?

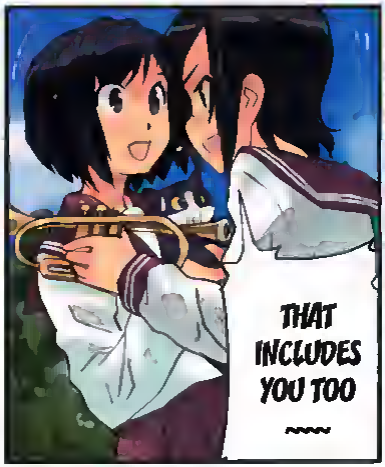
Errm, you're wearing Onomichi Middle uniform... And you want us to search for a cat?
Eh? Eh? Why do you need us?
Yes, I'm Iwasaki Shizuku from Onomichi Middle. The thing is...
AT THAT TIME SHE WOULD USE A MUSIC INSTRUMENT SUCH AS A RECORDER TO CALL TOTO
SHIZUE-SAN FROM YOUR CLUB AND I FOR ABOUT THE FAST YEAR ON OUR WAY HOME WOULD STOP BY THE BACK OF OUR SCHOOL TO FEED A CAT NAMED TOTO WHO LIVED THERE

But now that Shizue-san is gone, I haven't seen the cat at all...
Heh, Shizue-senpai did something like that on her way home.
Yes, I'm sure the tune was called "Over the Rainbow" ...
I see... So which melody was it?
So I thought that melody was the only way to call her, so I wanted to ask you, since I thought you were from the same club.
Th-Thank you very much...
Then it's perfect. Alright, lead us to that cat's place.
Heeeh~~!?

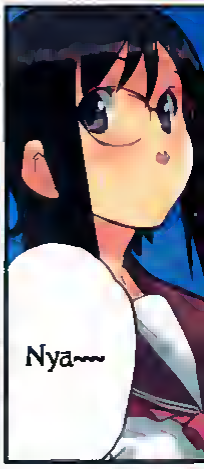
U-Umm, Shizue-san called her using other instruments as well. I thought that sax would be fine too...
Maybe it doesn't work if it's not the usual recorder?
Yeah, she's not coming out. I wonder if she went to another place already.
TOTO!!
Nya~~
So, basically, it's that we're not good enough ...
Myu~
Myu~
!

We've been playing "Over the Rainbow" all over Onomichi lately, so it wouldn't be a mystery if she came out at that time. But she didn't come out because she was busy giving birth!

Eh!? Wh- What is it?
I see, the mystery is solved!


THAT INCLUDES YOU TOO ~~~~

I think anyone would run away from such a crappy performance, nya!


Nya~~~

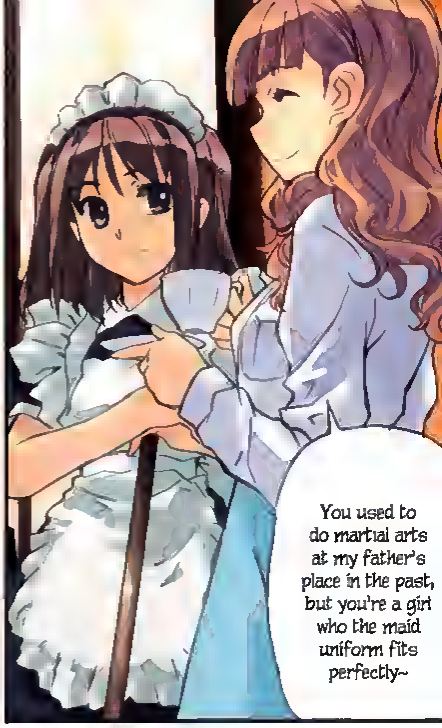
You too nya~~
Get more motivated nya~~
Myaa~
Myaa~
Myaa~
Myaa~
Myaa~
Myaa~
Myaa~

CH.10
The Maid and the Western-style House
Kobe
チヂミ・タコ焼き
お好み焼き
皇城

Haa. We're so empty today... Well, it's a weekday, and all sightseeing spots are like this

Ah, Aunt ...
The Maid Day week we tried as a test turned out be quite successful thanks to Yukari-chan and your friends.
Uhuhu, you're working hard, Miho-chan.
Haha. They're all attendees of the WHF that they have down by the harbor, so they're slightly different from regular sightseers...
TL NOTE: WHF - WORLD HOBBY FESTIVAL, USUALLY KNOWN FOR SELLING ALL THOSE FIGURINES TO OTAKUS.
MAID DAY
7/7 - 7/13
Last week, we had many people come in who have never visited here before.
It's unfortunate that today is the last day, but thank you so much for this week, Miho-chan.

Ehhh?
I like the maid uniform, but don't regular clothes look good on me too?


You used to do martial arts at my father's place in the past, but you're a girl who the maid uniform fits perfectly~

!

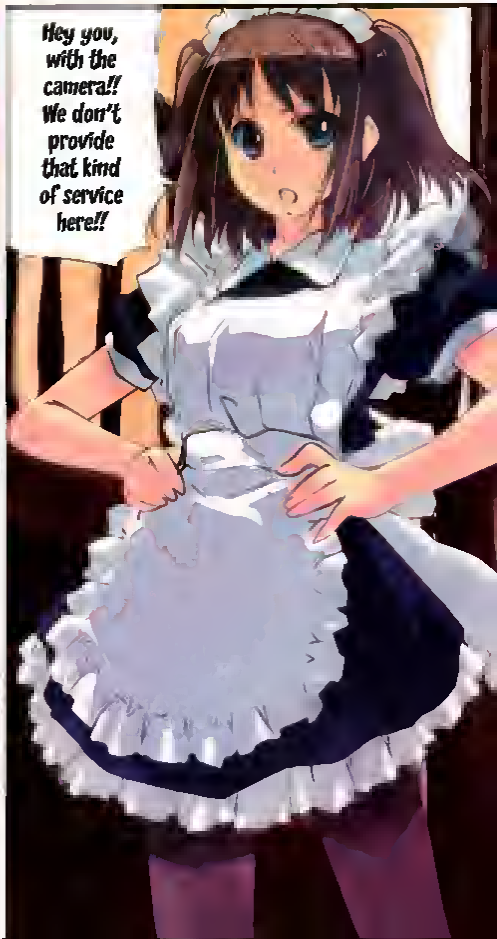
Please, sir, we can't do that!!

I'll go take a look, Aunt~~
Can you make a pose ~~~!?
Miki-chan and the others are supposed to be downstairs, I wonder if there's any trouble going on?
Eh!? Eh!?

What are you talking about~~ Aren't you cosplaying? Come on, pose for me.
CANNON

Umm, we're a regular cafe...

Mi-Miho-senpai~~


Hey you, with the camera!! We don't provide that kind of service here!!

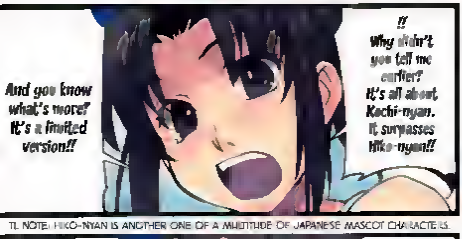
Oh!?
WHAP
HEAVY BREATHING
HEAVY BREATHING
SQUEEZE
CANNON
SPIN
NOW
CANNON
Ah, a new maid-san has come. Please pose for me
Wow ♡
Ugh ...
Hmph.
THUD

Amazing, Miko-chan. Should we entrust the shop security to you now?
Eh!?
Senpai, thank you so much for saving us~~
That was amazing, Miko-chan. Did you learn that somewhere?
Aww~~ I'm embarrassed.
Umm~~ Aunt? Please don't start day-dreaming as you please ...?
A fighting maid-san, doesn't it sound cool? It'll be popular. Alright, it's settled~~ ♪
Please don't decide on this as you please~~ I'm fine wearing a maid uniform once in a while~~
Well, why not? You don't have any particular job now, right~~? And you'll be able to dress up like a maid every day.

CH.11
Summer Sky RUNRUN Girl (Beginning)
Kouchi 1
高知駅
高知塾

Phew~~ I have one last lap, and you have six left, Izumi.
...
...
Ryou-kun...
Izumi~~ Why are you looking at boys ~~?
Eh! Uh-umm? It's nothing, Azusa-chan.
Hmm?

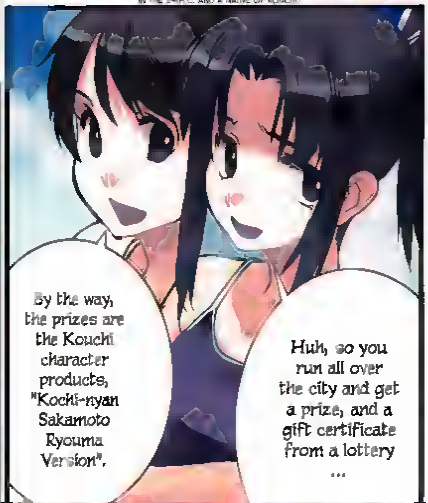
I feel like there are lots of people around the school and in the city today.
Ah, today they're doing the "Let's Search For Buried Treasure Stamp Rally" event.


!! Why didn't you tell me earlier? It's all about Kochi-nyan. It surpasses Hiko-nyan!!
And you know what's more? It's a limited version!!

TL NOTE: HIKO-NYAN IS ANOTHER ONE OF A MULTITUDE OF JAPANESE MASCOT CHARACTERS.

What's that?
You have to get stamps at locations marked on the map. If you collect all of them, in addition to a prize, you are also entered into a draw for one of one thousand shopping district gift certificates worth 1000 yen.

TL NOTE: SAKAMOTO RYOUMA - A LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT TO OVERTHROW THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE IN THE 19TH C. AND A NATIVE OF KOUCHI.


Huh, so you run all over the city and get a prize, and a gift certificate from a lottery ...
By the way, the prizes are the Kouchi character products, "Kochi-nyan Sakamoto Ryouma Version",

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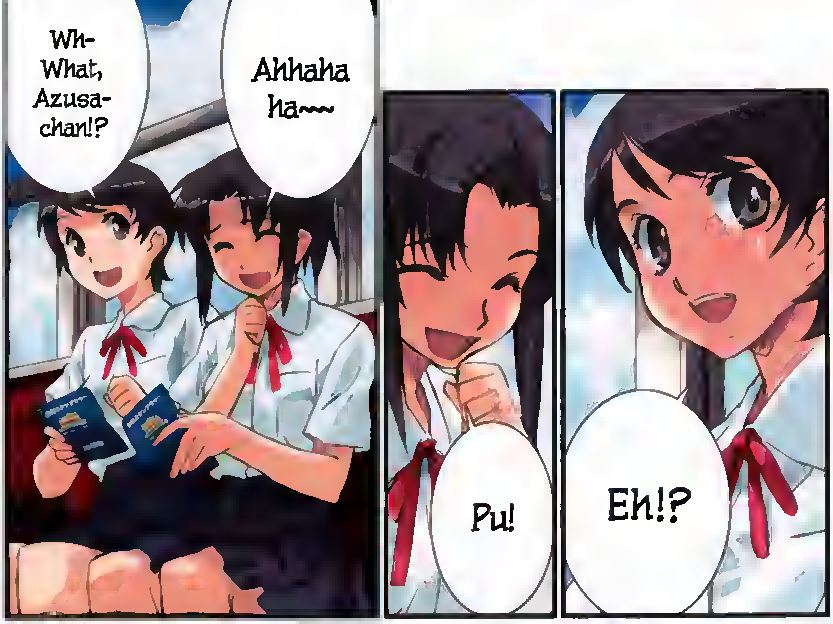
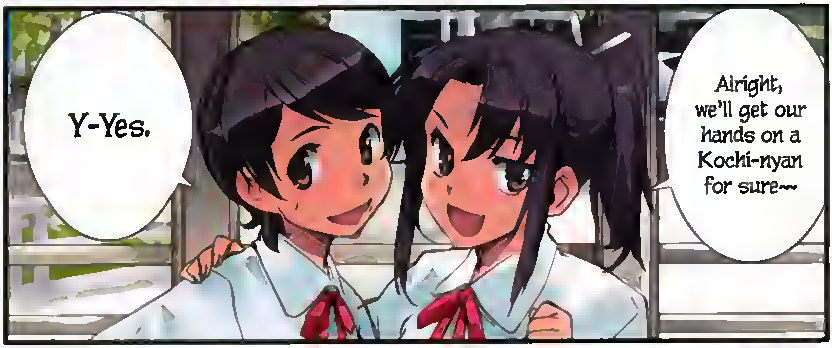
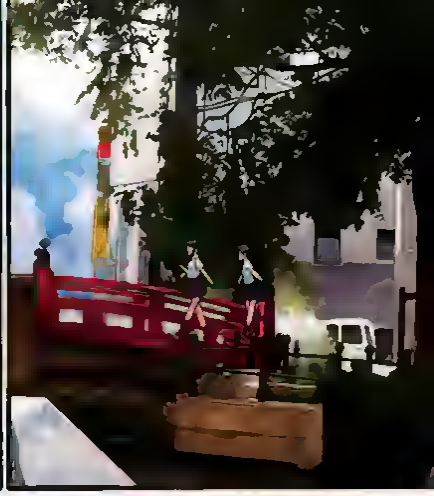
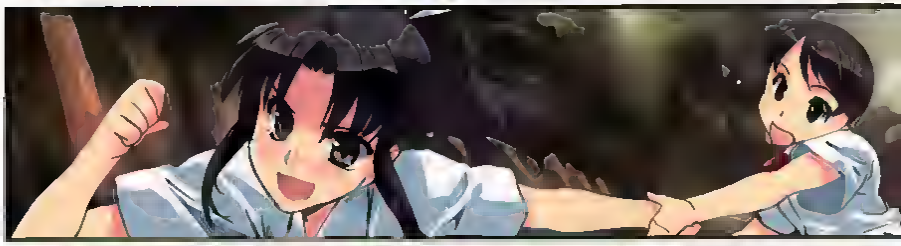
I'm sorry, my swimming took some time...
We started late, so I wonder if we'll manage to hit every place
Yup, yup, there are places you can reach by street car, but also places where you have to take a bus to get to...
Speaking of that...
The fact that he was at the pool today means that he probably doesn't know about the limited goods being offered.
Ryou-kun, who you were looking at at the pool, also collects Kochi-nyans. If you give it to him as a present, I'm sure he'll be happy~~


Wh-
What,
Azusa-
chan!?
Ahhaha
ha~~
Pu!
Eh!?


Y-Yes.
Alright,
we'll get our
hands on a
Kochi-nyan
for sure~~

Yeah.
First
let's hit
the Harima
Bridge and
the Kouchi
Castle.





Alright, the last point is next. If we get a stamp here, Kochi-nyan is ours!!

THE STAMP RALLY HAS ENDED.
Wait, they're closed.
I'm glad I spent the whole morning going around town before I went to the pool.
Yeah, I was lucky to get the last Kochi-nyan~~
Huh, is that you, Azusa-san?
Wha-!?
Ah, Ry-Ryou-kun!?
EH!? WHAT?
You!!! You stole my Kochi-nyan!?
Did I do something?
Doooon't, Azusa-chan!!

CH.12

Summer Sky RUNRUN Girl (Conclusion)

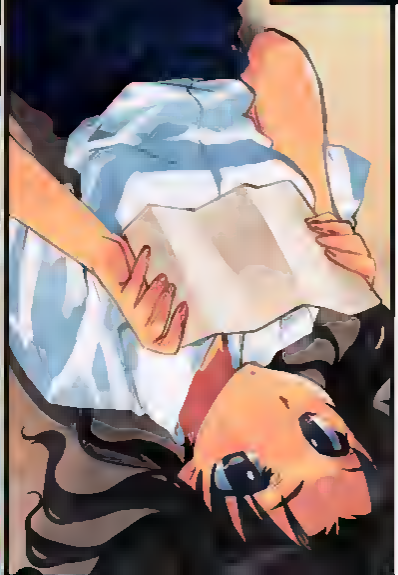
Kouchi 2

OO
KAWA

"Is this mountain Mount Godai?"
Under a white brick
"And this monster ...?"

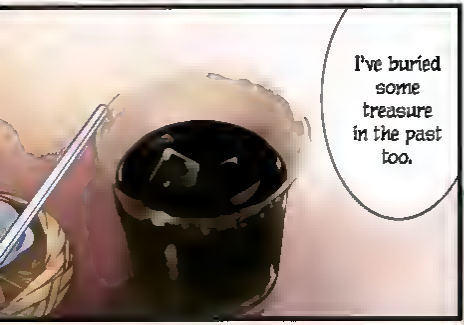
...
...

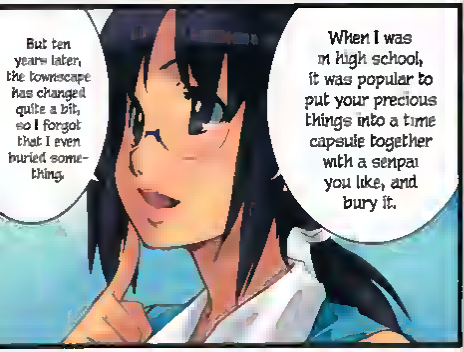
Say, Izumi~ What is this map of?



Ah, this?
Heh, it's Aunt Kaoru's.
When the okonomiyaki place my mom used to go to was about to be shut down due to zoning adjustments, it was something she got from it to keep.

TL NOTE: OKONOMIYAKI IS A TYPE OF A JAPANESE PANCAKE WITH VARIOUS TOPPINGS.



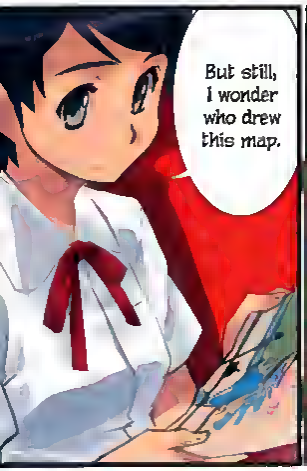

But ten years later, the townscape has changed quite a bit, so I forgot that I even buried something.
When I was in high school, it was popular to put your precious things into a time capsule together with a senpai you like, and bury it.

Me neither.
Ehhh, I don't like the heat ...
I'd like to see what kind of thing is buried there.
If you guys are free, why don't you go to the place on this map?

Ahhh!? Why do you have something like that, Aunt Kaoru?
Taadaaa! Kochi-nyan Sakamoto Ryouma version.

Alright, Izumi. We're going. Come on, get up.
Ehhh!? We're really going?
Azusa-chan, you wanted this, right? I can give it to you if you go.
Yes, please. I'll go!!
Uhuhu, I can get any number of samples at the Ryouma Memorial Hall I work at.

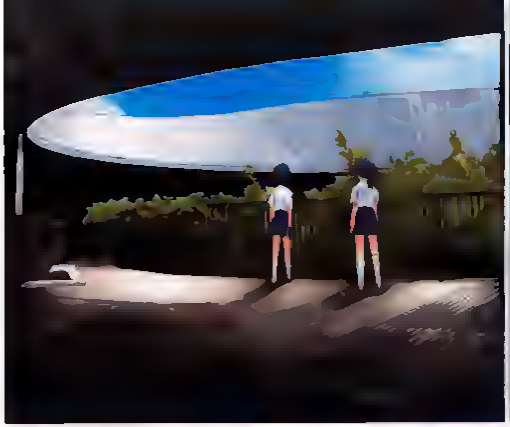
Yeah, in general. Probably. I think the plants on the picture and the observation platform point to the botanical garden on Mount Godai.
Huh, you're always so sudden, Azusa-chan. Do you have an idea of where we're going?


But still, I wonder who drew this map.

Yeah, true~
Even though we're going there on the spur of the moment, aren't you excited to go see it?

I feel like there's something familiar about the look of this map... I wonder why?

Well, even if we don't know who it was, if we just check it out, I'll get Kochi-nyan!



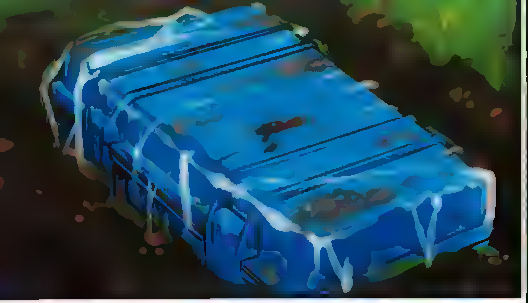
Yeah, since then they've even opened a memorial hall here, and the fossil building has been closed. The place is pretty different now.
We've been to the Makino Botanical Garden before, but not since the grade school field trip.

It's a pretty crappy drawing, but this dinosaur statue has to be it.
That's true.

So, where should we start looking?

Eh, it was that easy?
Hey, isn't that the place?

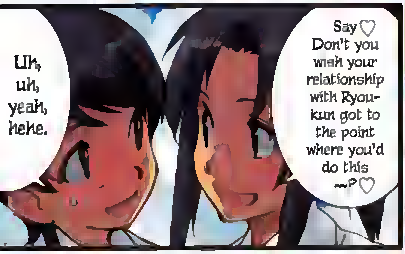
Oh!?

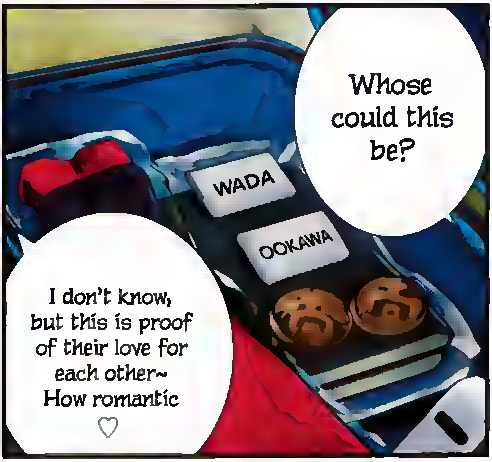


I wonder if it's under this off-color brick?

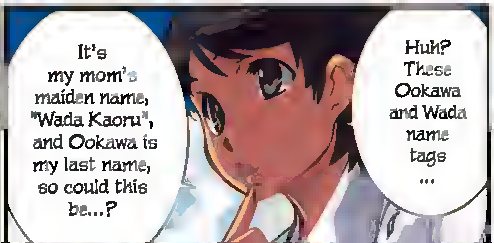
It really was here ...
Amazing ...

Here we go.


Uh, uh, yeah, heke.
Say♡ Don't you wish your relationship with Ryou-kun got to the point where you'd do this ~~?♡

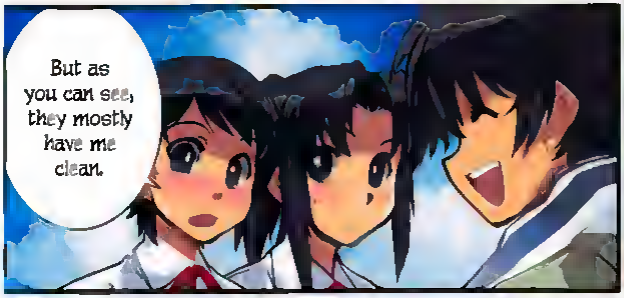

WADA
OOKAWA
Whose could this be?
I don't know, but this is proof of their love for each other~ How romantic ♡

Huh? Did you call me or some-thing?
!


It's my mom's maiden name, "Wada Kaoru", and Ookawa is my last name, so could this be...?
Huh? These Ookawa and Wada name tags ...

Ah, I'm volunteer research staff at this botanical garden, so I come here often.
Ehhh!? Why are you here?

What's up? What are you two doing here?


But as you can see, they mostly have me clean.

We can't show this to you anymore ~~
What's that box?
Ahaha, the two of you have a connection.

Geez, this is the worst!
What? Did I do anything?

www.colourfulabyss.com
irc.irchighway.net/#c-a

Recruiting for all positions (esp. translators)

Tsubame: Sunny Girl Travel Journal

Translator: cmertb
Editor: ka-os
Proofreader: aries_girl